

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00

EUR-25 AF-10 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /144 W

----- 019256

R 160800Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1206

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4607

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH PERCEPTIONS OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

USIA FOR ISA

FROM JDARGE

REF: STATE 203865

1. WE HAVE HAD NO INQUIRIES FROM BDG OFFICIALS ABOUT USG RESUPPLY OPERATION. WE MIGHT NEVER HAVE UNLESS EGYPTIAN OR SOVIET EMBASY PROMPTS THEM TO INQUIRE. NOR DO I CONSIDER IT USEFUL TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH BDG.

2. BDG POSTURE, ALBEIT ALL-OUT PRO-ARAB, HAS SO FAR CONFINED ITSELF TO EXCORIATION OF ISRAEL. OFFICIAL BDG PRONOUNCEMENTS UP TO NOW HAVE NOT CRITICIZED USG ROLE. AWAMI GVAGUE ORATORY AND  
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BENGALIEE NEWS MEDIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE INDULGING

IN RECKLESS DISSEMINATION OF MISCHIEVOUS AND OUTRAGEOUS LIES ABOUT US DIRECT MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN WAR. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED AND DISCOURAGED AT THIS PERFORMANCE BUT IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT BDG WOULD ATTEMPT TO DAMPER IT.

3. I HAVE SIGNALLED TO MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL ALAM MY UNEASINESS OVER POTENTIALLY INFLAMMATORY EFFECT ON POPULAR EMOTIONS, RELATING IT TO EXPERIENCES OF LAST WINTER'S ASSAULTS ON USIS CENTERS. PAO HAS EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERN TO SECRETARY MININFO ABIDIN, IN RESPONSE TO QUERY WHETHER OR NOT THERE HAD BEEN ANY BDG POLICY GUIDANCE ISSUED ON COVERAGE ME EVENTS IN GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED MEDIA ABIDIN REPLIED NEGATIVELY.

4. ALAM AGREED TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BUT I DOUBT THEY WILL HAVE MUCH EFFECT. FONMIN, FONSEC, AND ALAM ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH PERPARATIONS FOR ALL THREE OF THEM TO ACCOMPANY PRIMIN MUJIB TO JAPAN, LEAVING DACCA TOMORROW. IN THEIR ABSENCE, MFA WILL BE SUPERVISED BY ADMINISTRATIVE ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY (FAKHRUDDIN AHMED). MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES WILL BE ACTING PRIME MINISTER. IN SHORT, FOR THE NEXT WEEK THERE WILL BE NO DECISION MAKERS IN DACCA WITH WHOM TO CONDUCT MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

5. AS FOR PUBLIC ATMOSPHERE IN DACCA, EMBASSY SEES NO EVIDENCE THAT NEWS MEDIA'S EXTRAVANGES AND AWAMI LEAGUE ORATORY HAVE HAD ANY APPRECIABLE EFFECT ON MASS EMOTIONS. BENGALLEES NATURALLY WANT THEIR MUSLIM ARAB "BROTHERS" TO PREVAIL. THEY DO NOT YET SEEM DISPOSED TO MANIFEST THIS SOLIDARITY BY ASSAULTING US PRESENCE IN DACCA. FOR THE MOMENT WE ASSUME THEY WILL NOT BE SO AROUSED UNLESS AND TUNTIL BDG AND/OR SOVIET EMBASSY DECIDES TO ORGANIZE (AND PAY FOR) ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS.

6. WE SHALL OF COURSE REPORT ANY CHANGE IN THIS CURRENT  
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ASSESSMENT.  
NEWBERRY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAR, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BANGLADESH PERCEPTIONS OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION USIA FOR ISA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BG, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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